

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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WELCH FIGHTS FOR HONEST, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

OPPOSES BUDGET PLAN THAT RAISES PROPERTY TAXES, CUTS FUNDING TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington) took a stand today against a budget that will raise property taxes and cut school funding, resulting in teacher lay-offs and larger class sizes in her district.

Welch voted against the state's two-year budget offered by House Republicans. The budget passed by a vote of 52-46.

"Hoosier taxpayers trusted us to keep our promise to ensure that property taxes do not spiral out of control," Welch said. "But the budget offered by the majority party breaks that promise. This budget not only breaks a promise to property owners, but it delivers a major blow to our schools forcing them to lay off teachers and increase class sizes. That is why I voted against it."

House Republicans claim this budget is balanced. However, local governments will now be burdened with the responsibility for paying more for schools. The state will now shift liability for school funding back to the local level, forcing school districts to raise property taxes and eliminate teaching and staff positions.

Property owners in Monroe, Greene and Brown Counties will ultimately pay the price for the irresponsible budget passed by House Republicans, according to Welch. In fact, Hoosiers can expect to pay nearly \$850 million more in property taxes in the next two years for their schools and other local government services.

"Our responsibility is to vote for what's best for those we have been elected to serve," Welch said. "This budget is disingenuous and a disaster to local schools and home owners. I will continue to fight for honest and fiscally responsible plans that don't burden our families and put our children's future at jeopardy."

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